

A.C. LAWRENCE LEATHER CO.



A DIVISION OF SWIFT & COMPANY, (INC.)

SUBJECT:—

Opening of New Side Leather Tannery
at South Paris, Maine
by A. C. Lawrence Leather Co.
General Offices Peabody, Mass.

PRESS RELEASE

DATE:— November 4, 1955
12:00 Noon

Statement by Mr. Saul N. Nectow
Executive Vice President, A. C. Lawrence Leather Co.

"A new concept in quality production and control of side upper leather will be inaugurated with the opening of the new tannery at South Paris, Maine, by A. C. Lawrence Leather Company," declared Mr. Saul N. Nectow, Executive Vice President.

"The objectives sought by A. C. Lawrence in the design and construction of the new plant dramatize the tremendous technical strides made by the tanning industry," he said. "Scientific advances in leather production, precise instrument control and laboratory direction have been combined into a plant which incorporates many ideas which depart from conventional methods."

Throughout the process, technical control and testing facilities will check each phase of the operations to produce side upper leather of the highest quality.

Mr. Nectow explained that a New England site was selected where all the traditions of craftsmanship could be developed and fused with the latest technological methods to produce fine upper leathers required by today's consumer markets. After considerable study and with the help of the State of Maine Development Commission, the South Paris site was selected.

Mr. Nectow indicated that the tannery can produce both smooth chrome leathers and retanned leathers for the men's, women's, and children's dress shoe trades.

He said that the plant will use only the finest of raw material available throughout

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the United States, and will concentrate on producing the highest-quality upper leather. Initial operations are scheduled to begin in the near future, with full production to be in effect early in 1956.

(Page 2 of Statement by Mr. Saul N. Nectow
Executive Vice President, A. C. Lawrence Leather Co.)

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Statement by Mr. Harold N. Goodspeed
President, A. C. Lawrence Leather Co.

"A new era in the leather industry is beginning with the opening of A. C. Lawrence Leather Company's new side leather tannery at South Paris, Maine," said Mr. Harold N. Goodspeed, President of the company, at the open house of the tannery today.

Mr. Goodspeed continued, "Particular emphasis in planning the new plant has been given to fusing all the traditional elements of craftsmanship inherent in fine leathers with modern, scientific techniques and layout."

Mr. Goodspeed explained that this new tannery is a part of A. C. Lawrence's expansion program to meet the increased demand for high-quality upper leathers. A. C. Lawrence Leather Company, which is a division of Swift & Company, operates other tanneries in Peabody, Massachusetts; Winchester, New Hampshire; Ashland, Kentucky; Hazelwood, North Carolina; and Newport, Tennessee; and has sales offices and agents in every leading leather center throughout the world.

The plant, containing three and a half acres of floor space, is laid out in "J" shape, all on one floor, with the main building 540 feet long.

The latest technical controls, material handling methods, and the most modern tanning machinery available have been incorporated in the tannery to produce the highest-quality side leathers needed by today's shoe industry. Several innovations by A. C. Lawrence's own Technical Development Department have been designed to bring out all the inherent potentials of beautiful, natural leather.

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"The consistent production of the highest-quality side leather for quality-conscious manufacturers, retailers, and consumers is the objective of this new plant. Quality has permeated the thinking back of every detail in the planning of the layout. Quality has dominated the training of the organization. We feel sure that the result - in side upper leather - will embody the beauty and texture essential in today's consumer goods markets."

"With the rising population in our country and increased demand for high-quality merchandise, we see a new future in a resurging leather industry. We are proud," he concluded, "to demonstrate our faith in the new horizons for leather, and our belief that modern production methods will translate great potentialities into genuine realities."

(Page 2 of Statement by Mr. Harold N. Goodspeed
President, A. C. Lawrence Leather Co.)

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Statement by Mr. William K. Kopp
Vice President in Charge of Operations, A. C. Lawrence Leather Co.

"The design of A. C. Lawrence Leather Company's new tannery is really the manifestation of a tanner's dream," Mr. William K. Kopp, Vice President in charge of operations, said today at the opening of the new facilities at South Paris, Maine. "The tannery has a process flow which incorporates all the latest technical devices and material-handling methods to make a tannery clean, safe, and an attractive place to work."

"The building," he explained, "is reinforced concrete, erected by the 'Tilt-up' method used extensively on the West Coast but relatively new in this area." The wall panels, 20 feet wide and 14 feet high, were poured flat in forms and then erected by crane and joined by concrete columns poured in place. Much of the work was done last winter with the wall slabs protected from below-zero weather by temporary shelters. The plant is windowless, as windows have always been a heavy maintenance problem in tanneries, but the whole interior has a diffused natural light from a 6 foot strip of corrugated fibre-glass along the eaves line.

Extensive planning has provided for the automatic handling of offal or trimmings from the hides, which are removed at various stages in the process. These methods and the layouts of machines have been developed to insure the highest quality of the product and, at the same time, to make the plant orderly and provide the highest safety standards. The newest facilities for dust collection and the technical instrument control of processes have been built into the plant, again with the objective of maintaining the highest level of quality.

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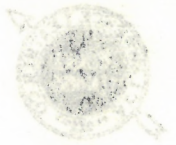
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"It is the tanner's objective to bring out the full and deep beauty inherent in our fine raw materials, and with this new plant a new standard in side upper leather is being created to serve the growing shoe industry."

(Page 2 of Statement by Mr. William K. Kopp
Vice President in Charge of Operations, A. C. Lawrence Leather Co.)



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(Page 2 of Statement by Mr. William K. Rupp
Vice President in Charge of Operations, A.C. Lawrence Leather Co.)